

Hagerty, Karen H MVR

From: holly heusinkveld [mailto:emalf@care2.com]

Sent: Monday, October 06, 2012 5:01 AM

To: Hagerty, Karen H

Subject: more MYCA comments

To whom it may concern,

2-11 I am writing in reference to the purposed MYCA camp / lodge, compound. My first experience on this river was in the early 60's, as my stepfather's favorite fishing spot was where the Mahaffy bridge is now. I spent every weekend there for years. In 1975 my husband and I moved to what is now Scales Bend Rd. We live to the west, directly across from the Scales Bend/200th St. intersection. We were here before the old farmstead was turned into a housing development. The Girl Scouts were still using the camp in the summer, and we were always welcome to hike through their land with our dogs. The only traffic we saw were a few school buses and station wagons full of girls. Mostly in the summer. The MYCA camp as purposed is nothing like that. It's a Hotel/Conference Center/Lodge with 12 tent platforms and 10 cabins. In Minnesota that would be a resort.

22-19 I have read the environmental assessment printed up for the Corp. many times, including the report by the Johnson County Board of Supervisors. I know the statement of no accidents on the Scales Bend/ 200th St. corner is false. There have been many accidents there in the last 10 years. We can see them from our house. Most have been with our trees and others mainly fender benders. We have pulled some out of the timber ourselves and others used tow trucks. I have even seen the police stop and help. I have also seen many cars go off the road and even flip over at the bottom of the hill by the cemetery. The shuttle busses mentioned by the camp should not be able to operate in the spring due to road embargoes. Your own report states that the road use is already too high in the south part of Scales Bend and it wouldn't take much to go over 1000 in the north. This would mean road improvements would be necessary at the cost of the land owners and all taxpayers of Johnson county. We defeated a proposal to do that once before, because of the loss of property to straighten and improve the road. We were told it could cost as much as 1 million dollars a mile if it was like the first mile off 965.

13-17 The report goes on to state that the waste water system for the compound would not be adequate and would need a variance. I doubt if even that would work. The compound is on about the lowest part of the property and the waste water would have to be pumped uphill to have a drainage field long enough to work. Even then it might very well pool up in the wetland area at the bay and smell like a small Hog lot. All mammal waste smells about the same. They could use compost or incineration toilets, or holding tanks that are pumped out, as they require in northern MN.

13-11 The water supply of the current well is also something in question. As stated it is at 185 feet and shallower than some of the neighbors, ours is 216 feet. It did stop pumping water twice in 1988 (drought year). We have just gone through the driest month on record and no snow in sight, are you sure they could supply all their water and not effect others?

9-3 The report states 402 trees will be cut, including 12 Oaks (80 to 100 years). I went and photographed all of the trees (marked with paint) last fall. These are the best part of this property. Along with the animals and birds that inhabit the sight, but they will leave as the construction begins, defeating part of the reason they want the camp.

26-2 The beach area is going in where a lot of artifacts have been found that the report dismisses as insignificant. But if you stop and pick up an arrowhead off the sand you are breaking 24 federal laws. How can bulldozing through the beach and for the compound be insignificant if all digging in areas known to be camp sights is illegal? History back 8000 years is not insignificant. Not only that but the sand dumped on the beach will not stay very long after the river rises and falls very many times. Causing the river to fill in more where its already one of the most shallow spots on the river.

13-14 Which brings me to what I feel is the biggest problem. The land is very nice for hiking and camping and exploring nature, but the river is terrible. Don't you feel guilty promoting this lake to strangers? MYCA even though **non-** profit, has a reason to want this here on this river near their Cedar Rapids Mosque. The people there want to make the money it takes to run it. They will all get nice jobs, maybe even a caretakers house out of it. Not to mention a 2 million dollar **building/compound**. They will charge rent for the buildings and for campers, conferences etc. **Until all money is reimbursed, it's** still non-profit. But they and the Corps are both promoting the **use of the river for swimming** and fishing. The report says the water exceeds the EPA **recommendations** for class A & B waters in Phosphate **concentrations** and surface water **DDT** levels. I banned my children from going swimming in this river 10 years ago after my daughter and I got terrible rashes and sores from the water. And I stopped fishing in it **15** years ago. The fish kill is worse every year. How are they going to feel sending children out on their new beach to play and swim in the dead fish, broken glass and old beer cans? Don't you feel bad enticing unsuspecting innocent children to a toxic **lake**? If they are coming from a 400 mile radius they could be in MN, WI or **MI** and have a truly beautiful nature camp with CLEAN CLEAR water and air!

2-11 The best use for your money and time would be to try to clean up the water all the way to northern Iowa. Use this land for a small camp as did the girl scouts, or open it to trails, and day sights for every one as federal land that belongs to all, as it should. With solar powered composting outhouses like the park service in Washington St. (Compost toilets made in AZ.) That is how to do the most good for the most people. Your usage rate will rise on it's own and maybe even I

Race to Save the Primates - every click provides food!

<http://www.care2.com/go/z/primates>